Assistance from religious leaders in family planning programmes

1164. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Swaminathan Committee report on draft population policy has streassed on the need for special efforts to enlist the support and participation of religious leaders in family planning programmes;

(b) whether Government have taken any further steps in this direction;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) response if any of the religious leaders in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) In major States opinion leaders, including religious leaders, are being sensitized for positive opinion formation in the family welfare programme. No adverse response has been received from any religious group.

Availability of tetracycline to prevent plague

1165. SHRI NAGMANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn towards the news captioned, "Tetracyline-'Brahmastra' one bust" that appeared in a Local Daily;

(b) looking over the controversy over effectivness of this medicine in plague what alternative or effective medicine substitute have been found,

(c) whether there was neither enough capacity of treatment in Surat nor in Delhi during the spread of plague and patients were even dennied admission in hospitals and treatment by doctors during recent attack of this dreaded disease; and

(d) what measures are being taken on country level to prevent such occurence in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) The news report has come to the Government's notice.

(b) Tetracycline is very effective in the treatment of Plague. However, other antibiotics like Chlorenphenicol and Streptomycine etc. are also available.

(c) There was sufficient capacity with the city hospitals to treat the plague patients and no reports of denial of admission in hospitals were received.

(d) Close surveillance and implementation of precautionary and prevenive measures are continuing. These would be further strangthened Suitable upgradation of laboratories is also envisaged.

News item regarding the spread of Flu

1166. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a press news item captioned "Flu epidemic may reoccur" as reported in "The Statement" dated 5th October, 1994;

(b) if so, whether there are possibilities of global epidemic of Flu;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take any preventive steps in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Periodic epidemics of Flu are a global phenomenon.

(c) and (d) National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi provides diagnostic services for common viral pathogens responsible for flu and flu-like syndromes etc.